

issues. Japan shall be holding—hosting two important national conferences next year. One is the G–8 summit at Lake Toya in Hokkaido, in July. And the important theme for that meeting will be climate change. On this issue, Japan and the United States, through close coordination over the past half year or so, have led international discussions. And through a new forum for negotiations at the U.N., we very much hope that we will have discussions with President on closer cooperation on global warming measures so that concrete results will be achieved for an effective framework for the future.

And through further coordination, we would like to achieve a successful G–8 summit on the global climate change issue and other matters as well, because I believe that we can have useful discussions that will allow science and technology to achieve continued economic growth and also achieve global warming measures and energy security.

The other important conference Japan will be hosting is the International Conference in African Development, because that is a matter that the international community together should address. And this is the—[*inaudible*—fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development that will be held in Japan in May. And we would like to tie the findings and results of that meeting to the G–8 summit. And again, we’d like to engage in cooperation with the United States. And there also is a question of health care in Africa, and again we would like to work in cooperation with the United States on that health care issue.

As the world economy faces numerous challenges, Japan and the United States, I believe, should work together on a global scale in the economic area, including intellectual property protection and for the sustainable development of developing countries.

There was a reference to beef. I hope that—well, we are addressing the beef issue on the basis of scientific findings. We are still in the process of our bilateral meetings.

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the very warm welcome by President Bush and the people of the United States. And I look forward to ad-

ressing our common challenges together, hand in hand with President Bush.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:40 a.m. in the Cross Hall at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Sakie Yokota, mother of Megumi Yokota, who was abducted by North Korean authorities; and Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy in Burma. Prime Minister Fukuda spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks on National Adoption Day

November 16, 2007

Nice line of work when you get introduced by your wife. [*Laughter*] Laura and I are sure glad you’re here. I want to welcome Members of the Congress—Senators and Members of the House. Thank you all for coming. You’re kind to take time to join our honored guests. We’re really glad you’re here in the White House. And we’re pleased to join you on National Adoption Day. We offer a special welcome to the youngsters who have joined us. We’re glad you all are here. You’ve just got to know this is the people’s house. And I know you took time off from school to be here today. [*Laughter*] And I thank you for making such a difficult sacrifice. [*Laughter*]

I thank the members of the National Adoption Day coalition who have joined us. Few missions in life are more rewarding than uniting loving children with moms and dads for the very first time. Each of you has known this blessing. That’s got to make you feel good in your soul. You’ve shared it with others, and in so doing, you’ve strengthened what is the very foundation of our country, and that is the American family. I want to thank you for being part of something that is so remarkable and so special.

It is fitting that we celebrate this day in a room honoring George Washington, or as some like to say, the original “George W.” [*Laughter*] There he is. He raised four children who were not his by birth. He cared for them, provided for them, and he offered them advice—even when they didn’t want it. [*Laughter*] When one of his boys went off to college, Washington did what many parents do—he checked up on him. And in 1798, he sent the young man a letter. It said:

"I have, with much surprise, been informed of your devoting much time to a certain young lady." And he went on to advise that "your application to books is not [what] it ought to be." Well, some parents here today may be able to relate to this. It's probably hard to believe, but there was even a time when my dad—[laughter]—felt compelled to write such a letter. [Laughter]

Since Washington's time, this house has known many leaders who understood that not every family is defined by biology. A true family is defined by love. Around the corner, for example, is a portrait of a proud adopted son named Gerald R. Ford. A few steps away is the portrait of a proud adoptive father named Ronald Reagan. Close by is a proud grandfather of two adopted grandchildren, George H.W. Bush. And here in this room are children who have strengthened families and enriched communities and warmed hearts. You are the living reminders that adoptions are stories of celebration, stories of hope, and stories of love.

National Adoption Day also reminds us that not every child finds this happy ending. Each year, more than 100,000 foster children await adoption, and too many children will not find a permanent home. And so on this National Adoption Day, we remind our fellow citizens there's still plenty of acts of love to be done. Many people have worked with courts and foster homes and social workers to change that—and our Government has tried to help. And that's why I'm so proud Members of Congress are here.

We have joined with community- and faith-based organizations to raise public awareness of foster children awaiting adoption. And we worked with the Congress to assist families to overcome financial barriers to adopting children. Nothing is more vital to this country's future than helping young people find the love, stability, and support from families.

There's a man here, I told him—I warned him I was going to talk about him, and that's a fellow named Tom Wollack. I want my fellow citizens who may be listening to hear this story. Tom has much to be proud of. He served our country in Vietnam; he's a New York City firefighter. By the way, nothing finer than being a New York City firefighter.

He rushed to the scene of the World Trade Center on September the 11th, 2001. While others were leaving, he's a bunch of them that went in.

Yet at the top of his list of achievements are his seven children. Three were foster children that Tom later adopted. They're here—two college and one soon-to-be college attendee. They were born to parents struggling with drug addiction. Today they are deeply loved members of the Wollack family. He calls his family his foundation, and that foundation is here today, right here in the White House. We want to thank you for coming. I thank you for being a loving soul and truing—showing our Nation the true meaning of family. Thank you, Tom.

Each of the families here has shown the world the depth and wonder of the human heart. And because of people like you, this Thanksgiving holiday will be particularly special for thousands of families in thousands of homes. Many children will be giving thanks for being part of a family they never thought they would have. Many parents will look across the table at children who once were strangers and who are now priceless treasures in their lives.

To the parents here today, please know how grateful we are that you have taken children in need of a hopeful start in life and made them your own. And to the young people here today, always remember that you are special not only because of what your parents have given you, but because of the love and joy you have given them. So thankful that the parents and children here today have found the gift of one another. And I encourage our citizens across the land to explore adoption, look into the joys of adoption, and provide love for somebody who needs it.

I want to thank you all for coming. May God bless you and your families. May God bless our country. And now I'd ask the talented Rodney Atkins to come up here and perform some songs for us to celebrate this special day. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:22 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

Proclamation 8205—National Farm-City Week, 2007

November 16, 2007

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Our Nation's agricultural industry contributes greatly to the strength of our economy. During National Farm-City Week, we honor the hard work and dedication of America's farmers and ranchers and we highlight the important urban and rural partnerships that help keep our country strong and prosperous.

America's farmers and ranchers embody an important part of our national heritage. As stewards of our land, our farmers and ranchers protect our soil, water, and wildlife habitat. With hard work, discipline, and ingenuity, they produce a safe and healthy food supply. Farmers and ranchers work closely with processors, transporters, and retailers, moving agricultural products from the farm to the homes of Americans and people around the world. My Administration is working to open new markets for American farm products and to encourage free and fair trade. By expanding opportunities for American farmers and ranchers, we can help keep our economy strong and growing.

As we celebrate Farm-City Week, we recognize the many contributions of America's farmers and ranchers and all those who work to strengthen the ties between our rural and urban communities. Our Nation is blessed by those who grow, harvest, and deliver these products, and we honor their dedication to feeding our country and the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 16 through November 22, 2007, as National Farm-City Week. I encourage all Americans to recognize the many accomplishments of our farmers and ranchers, and all those who contribute to the strength of America's agricultural industry.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven,

and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:47 a.m., November 19, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 20.

**Digest of Other
White House Announcements**

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 10

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and her husband, Joachim Sauer.

November 11

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Waco, TX. Later, he returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

November 12

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he participated in an interview with Bret Baier of FOX News.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda of Japan to the White House on November 16.

November 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with President-elect Alvaro Colom Caballeros of Guatemala. He then